

**Girls GROW,
get EXCITED**

Two Fort Riley youngsters attend science workshops at K-State

Page 15



Fort Riley Post

**Softball teams
enjoy dry days**

More scheduled games played in absence of wet weather

Page 11



Friday, June 24, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 25

**Around
The Army****Baumholder:**

European Stars and Stripes reported June 22 that high school sports could be on the chopping block in what Kaiser-slautern, Germany, district officials describe as a more fair and equitable formula for funding after-school activities.

Students, parents, faculty and administrators at Baumholder High School, which stands to lose \$32,000, counter that Department of Defense Dependents Schools couldn't have picked a worse time or place to start, with many parents perhaps only weeks away from an Iraq deployment.

"This is going to have a big impact on Baumholder, where there are no ... host-nation amenities or access to other activities," said Lt. Col. Mike Money, a member of Baumholder High School Advisory Committee.

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit www.estrupes.com on the Web.

Korea:

The Indianhead reported the Army chief of staff had visited Camp Red Cloud and 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers June 10 during their annual Warfighter Exercise.

During his visit, Gen. Peter Schoomaker discussed Army transformation, the Warrior Ethos and training going on in the Republic of Korea.

For more on this story and other 2nd Infantry Division news, visit www-2id.korea.army.mil/news/ on the Web.

Fort Knox:

The Turret reported June 16 that a biking helmet helped save the life of a noncommissioned officer's daughter.

Sgt. Michael Lopez was biking with his family June 5 along the nature trails of Otter Creek Park, just west of Fort Knox, when screams interrupted their peaceful Sunday outing.

Lopez said his daughter, Alex, began screaming that her 12-year-old sister, Michelle, had plunged, bike and all, over a 175-foot cliff.

When Lopez found Michelle, she was dazed and bleeding profusely. Her clothes were ripped, and her shoes and helmet were missing.

After they got back to the top of the cliff, Lopez laid his daughter against a tree, applied pressure to her wounds and used his shirt to control bleeding.

Lopez said the skills he learned during combat lifesaver training helped him treat his daughter.

For more on this story and other Fort Knox news, visit www.the-newspaper.com/turret/ on the Web.

Female Soldier earns Silver Star

MPs thwart attack on supply convoy; kill 27, wound six in firefight



Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester

Army News Service

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — The first female Soldier since World War II was awarded a Silver Star in Iraq June 16, and seven other members of her National Guard military police company received citations for valor after helping turn the tide

of a convoy ambush earlier this spring.

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester received the Silver Star, the Army's third highest award for valor, in a morning ceremony at Camp Liberty, Iraq, Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein and Spc. Jason Mike also received Silver Stars at the ceremony.

Three other members of the same squad received a Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for valor: Spc. Casey Cooper, Spc. William Haynes II and Spc. Ashley Pullen.

Sgt. Dustin Morris and Spc. Jesse Ordunez received an Army Commendation Medal with "V" device. All are mem-

bers of the Kentucky National Guard's 617th Military Police Company.

The Soldiers thwarted an insurgent attack against a coalition convoy March 20. The convoy of 26 supply vehicles was ambushed by about 40 insurgents southeast of Baghdad.

The 45-minute firefight left 27 insurgents dead, six wounded and one captured. Three 617th Soldiers were wounded.

The MPs also confiscated a sizable weapons cache, including 22 AK-47 machine guns, 13 RPK rifles, six rocket-pro-

See Silver Star, Page 2

Foggers attack pesky biters

Pest control crews
spray mosquitoes

By William T. Wildman

Environmental health technician

This summer's mosquito crop is hatching and is expected to be high. The Pest Control personnel will be applying mosquito adulticide to areas of the post using Ultra-Low-Volume equipment.

The chemicals used are EPA-approved for control of adult mosquitoes and are not known to be a health hazard. However, individuals with respiratory disorders could suffer discomfort. Therefore, individuals are advised to go inside and close windows and doors as the mosquito fogger approaches. Keep them closed for about 15 minutes after spraying is completed.

The ULV sprayer is driven at a very slow speed and is equipped with warning lights and signs. Joggers, walkers and vehicle traffic should avoid the fog the machine emits when possible.

Residents of the post can help with the control of the mosquito population by checking their own area for mosquito breeding places such as tin cans, old tires, stopped-up rain gutters and children's swimming pools. Mosquitoes must have water to hatch from the egg to the larval stage.

Tall grass should be mowed. It is a favored harborage for adult mosquitoes.

While out-of-doors, do not forget to use insect repellent on exposed skin. Questions and information regarding mosquitoes and other health related arthropods may be addressed to Preventive Medicine Service Entomology at 239-7386.

Questions about fogging can be addressed to Public Works Pest Control at 239-8896 or 239-2006.

Lesson learned



South African MPs share experiences with post MPs

By April Blackmon

Staff writer

Three military policemen from the South African Army recently trained with various elements of Fort Riley's 300th Military Police Company.

The goal was to learn how military police in various countries work and train, said 2nd Lt. Melissa Stewart, 2nd Platoon leader for the 300th MP Co.

"The MP Corps decided to branch out and see how other MP Corps in different nations run their companies," she said.

Staff Sgts. Frans Halliday, Philip Masemola and S.S. Mothapo were embedded with various platoons in the 300th MP Co. June 5-16. They participated in a variety of exercises, including morning physical training, conducting checkpoints, visiting the NBC (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) chamber and running through urban operation scenarios.

"Basically, they're out in the field with some of our platoons. We've been using them basically as NCOs, helping them train Soldiers. They're giving their opinions on how they train and how we train," Stewart said. "It's been great. We've had them at all the different training sites we've been to. They went to the NBC chamber, the MOUT site. I've had them out here as an extra pair of eyes to help my Soldiers train."

The South African Soldiers said they learned new things and shared their knowledge with the Americans.

"As we have spoken to each other, maybe they've learned something and maybe we've learned something. So it was nice that we could share all of our experiences to get knowledge," Halliday said.

See MPs, Page 3

Staff Sgt. S.S. Mothapo of the South African Military Police lies on the ground after being detained by Soldiers of the 300th MP Co. Sgt. David Robinson guards Mothapo, who played the opposition in an MP training exercise.

Signal specialists keep brigade 'talking'

By Matthew Wester
100th MPAD

Pfc. Bryan Galloway, a multi-channel systems operator and maintainer for 1st Platoon, 596th Signal Co., adjusts a radio system at Camp Taji, Iraq.



100th MPAD/Wester

TAJI, Iraq — Two Soldiers emerge from a special "Humvee" with a large, box-like rear compartment and dozens of thick cables and wires connected to it.

The step swiftly over the wires and duck under some camouflaged netting to a tall antenna and adjust its position while listening on a hand-held radio for feedback about the antenna's reception.

The Soldiers are communications specialists for 1st Platoon, 596th Signal Company, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, and their job is keeping the brigade and other troops at Camp Taji linked and communicating.

"My platoon is responsible for a large amount of the phone and data communications at Camp Taji," said Capt. Stephen M. Bjorkman, 1st Platoon leader, and a native of Emmett, Idaho. "Our responsibility is to make sure the systems are running."

Bjorkman called the units the platoon serves "subscribers."

"We provide a network to ensure that the subscribers have voice and data (communications)," said Staff Sgt. Larry L. Jones from Detroit. He serves as the platoon's senior node center operator for 1st Platoon.

The platoon has to keep communications up and running at all times, which requires constant monitoring and attention to detail.

"On an average day we main-

tain the systems, look at the network diagrams and make sure the links are all up," said Spc. Eric Schreiner, a node center operator who hails from Duncedin, Fla. "Out here on deployment, we're running the systems 24 hours a day. I don't think a lot of people realize that."

"We process a lot of calls," Schreiner said. "It can vary between 5,000 to 6,000 calls in a 12-hour shift."

The communications specialists maintain that level of productivity even though the sweltering heat and swirling sand in Iraq can be hard on the equipment.

Bjorkman said his troops devote a full day once a week to

See Signal, Page 6





Silver Star

continued from page 1

pelled grenade launchers, 16 RPG rockets and about 40 hand grenades.

MPs shadow 18-wheelers

The firefight took place the morning of March 20 as the squad of Kentucky MPs were shadowing a convoy on a supply route southeast of Baghdad.

Twenty-six supply vehicles, many of which were 18-wheelers, were heading south on the heavily traveled route. They were driving one behind the other like ducks in a row, with a security convoy of three gun trucks interlaced between - one up front, one in the middle, one in the rear.

Trailing the convoy and not far out of sight were the 617th MPs in three armored "Humvees."

Each "Humvee" contained a trio of Soldiers, each laden with weapons and gear. The trail vehicle also carried a medic. Gunners stood ready in the turrets with .50-caliber machine guns and Mark-19 grenade launchers.

The vehicle commanders, drivers and medic kept their eyes peeled and weapons at the ready just in case something out of the ordinary happened. That morning, something did.

Ambush kicks up dust

"We observed the convoy we were trailing starting to make erratic movements," said Staff Sgt. Timothy F. Nein, second squad leader.

"We saw a lot of dust being kicked up by the convoy vehicles,

as if they were being engaged by an (improvised explosive device) or an ambush, so we knew something was wrong.

"My gunner said he could hear shots being fired, so we picked up the pace," Nein said.

"We moved to contact," Nein said. "We got the vehicles on the contact side, in between the convoy and the insurgents. As we got up on that side of the road, we realized through previous reconnaissance of the area that there was a road that paralleled the field going south."

MPs flank insurgents

The squad then proceeded down the main road and took a right onto the side road to flank the insurgents. "At that time," Nein said, "We noticed seven vehicles the insurgents had staged and ready."

"Doors open, trunks open; ready for a quick escape. Once we turned down that road, the insurgents didn't have a choice but to stay and fight. We had just cut off their escape route."

As soon as the squad rolled into the fray, the insurgents adjusted fire.

"As we came on the scene, the insurgents' fire all shifted," Nein said. "They realized who they needed to fire on."

"They quickly shifted all fire from the transportation convoy to us. As soon as we cut back to get in between the convoy and the insurgents, the windshield of my driver (Sgt. Dustin T. Morris) took two direct hits. The bullets failed to defeat the armored glass," Nein said.

'Humvee' armor helps MPs

Atop the same truck was .50-cal. gunner Spec. Casey M. Cooper. He said, when they turned down the side road, massive gunfire was coming their way.

Rounds from small arms came toward them and impacted the rear door and its window, which yet again failed to penetrate the "Humvee's" armor. What happened next shocked and stunned Cooper.

"I just saw something coming at me, and fast. It just so happened to be a (rocket propelled grenade)," he said.

The round impacted right above the rear passenger door, right below where Cooper was positioned in the turret.

"It knocked me out - completely unconscious," he said.

Injured Soldiers keep on fighting

Sustaining only minor shrapnel wounds around the right eye and hand, Cooper would be fine, but one Soldier in the group thought he was dead. The Soldier said he went up and shook Cooper, at which point he popped awake and started firing again.

In the vehicle following right behind Nein, Cooper and Morris was 23-year-old Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, team leader and vehicle commander from Bowling Green, Ky. Hester and her crew saw the RPG hit the lead vehicle.

"Nein's vehicle took a direct hit with an RPG as soon as we made that turn," Hester said. "I

heard it hit, saw the smoke, but we kept pushing on."

"I saw Staff Sgt. Nein jump out of the truck. As soon as I saw him jump out, I was right there," Hester said. From there, Hester, Nein and company pressed their flanking advantage and engaged the enemy full force.

"On the right hand side was a berm. They were still shooting at us from there and from down in a trench line," Hester said.

Hester presses fire on insurgents

"So we returned fire. I think I shot off three M203 (grenade launcher) rounds, and I don't know how many M4 (assault rifle) rounds I shot. I know I hit one of the RPK (Russian-made light machine gun) gunners," she said.

Nein and Hester were side by side, and both were being engaged with small arms fire.

"Both Sgt. Hester's and my vehicles were being engaged by an insurgent with an RPK somewhere out in the orchard field," Nein said. "I could also see an insurgent with an RPG trying to get around and fire on us."

We weren't engaging him at

the time, but I think he thought we were going to. He was peering out from behind a tree, so we eliminated him."

Hester, Nein and their comrades continued to press the advantage, completely disrupting any plans the insurgents had at a successful attack. After the approximately 45-minute firefight, only three Soldiers from the 617th were wounded.

Conversely, 27 insurgents were dead. Six others were wounded; one was captured. No one escaped.

The MPs from second squad also "cached" in, confiscating 22 AK-47 light machine guns, 13 RPKs, six RPGs, 16 RPG rockets, 123 full AK-47 ammunition magazines, 52 empty AK-47 magazines, one full AK-47 (75) round ammunition drum, an estimated 200 loose AK-47 ammunition rounds, 2,500 (7.62mm) belted ammunition rounds and 40 hand grenades.

Commander lauds job well done

Capt. Todd M. Lindner, 617th MP Co. commander, said he went over the scenario in his head a hundred times to see what he

might have done differently or done better. He said there was no better way than what his Soldiers did.

"They did exactly what they were supposed to do when supporting a convoy in that situation," Lindner said. "What they were supposed to do was place themselves in between the attacking force and the convoy."

This would allow the convoy to escape the kill zone while they returned suppressive fire and ultimately defeated the enemy. That was exactly what they did."

This article is based on a Multi-National Corps-Iraq news release and a March 23 article by Spc. Jeremy D. Crisp of MNC-I Public Affairs.



KU SCHOOL OF NURSING
3 x 4"
Black Only
The Heart of Healthcare

KJCK RADIO
1 x 2"
Black Only
KG2 TONY SHOW SHOW

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2KG Candlewood June TF 3424 ml

USADISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
BLNR/3x10.5/June 2005

SUNDOWN SALUTE
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
3X10.5 Sundown Salute 3896 ml





Employees seek donated annual leave days to ease losses

CPAC

As of June 15, several Fort Riley employees are experiencing a personal or a family medical emergency and facing a period of more than 24 hours of Leave Without Pay.

The following individuals have

requested that their names be released in order that they may receive donated leave:

Geraldine Wang, Medical Department Activity, control number CPACLT1004
Arnaldo Valdemar, Directorate of Logistics, control number CPACLT2304

David Klug, Directorate of Plans, Training and Mobilization, control number CPACLT0305

Tammy Nobles, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, control number CPACLT0405
Julianne McElroy, MEDDAC, control number CPACLT0505
Barbara Holsomback, Direc-

torate of Public Works, control number CPACLT0605
Richard Foes, DOL, control number CPACLT0705

Nicole Fox, DPW, control number CPACLT0805
Sandra Barber, MEDDAC, control number CPACLT0905
Melody Williams, MEDDAC,

control number CPACLT1005
Gail Barnes, Southwest Operations Center, control number CPACLT1105

Lori Griffiths, SWOC, control number CPACLT1205
Venus VanDeventer, SWOC, control number CPACLT1305
Carolyn Hosier, SWOC, control number CPACLT1405

Bridgett Upchurch, Directorate of Information Management, control number CPACLT1505

Mozelle Corbin, Army Benefits Center-Civilian, control number CPACLT1605

To donate annual leave to any of these individuals, complete OPM Form 630-A. This form is located on the CPAC Intranet Web site under "Forms."

Completed forms should be forwarded to Kathy Patzner. For more information on leave donation procedures, call Kathy Patzner at 239-3171.

MPs continued from page 1

"Some of the sergeants have been giving me pointers and saying, 'you may want to try this technique,' and it's been very helpful," Stewart said.

The South African Soldiers said they were pleased with what they saw and learned.

"It was very interesting. It made me see that the South African military police are moving in the same direction. We're doing mostly the same sort of operations and patrols, movements," Halliday said.

"The most interesting thing I saw in training was when they were doing checkpoints. They

waited to search the vehicle. Their goal was preventing a suicide bombing," Masemola said.

The South African Soldiers said they hope this type of training will take place again.

"I hope maybe one time it will be a larger number (of Soldiers) for the training," Masemola said.

"When they come to South Africa, I hope they can learn a lot from us. Because they have their weak points and their strong points, which we also have our weak points and strong points. And with this type of training, we can exchange ideas to improve our military training," Mothapo said.



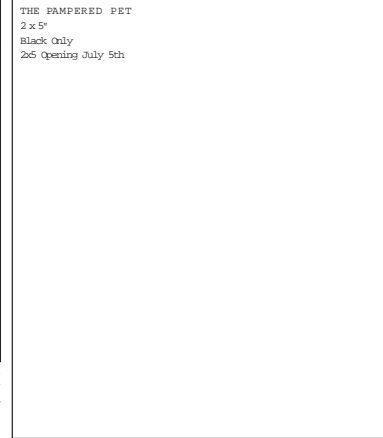
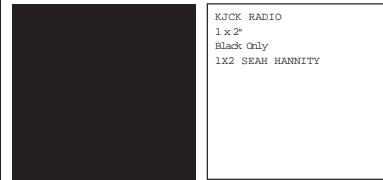
Post/Blackmon

South African MP Staff Sgt. S.S. Mothapo prepares to shoot at a "Humvee" manned by members of Fort Riley's 300th MP Co. during a training exercise June 10 on Fort Riley. With rainstorms throughout the week, the South African Soldiers traded in their wet, muddy South African uniforms for a dry set of American desert-camouflage uniforms June 10 to play opposing forces for the exercise.



Post/Blackmon

South African MP Staff Sgt. Frans Halliday is detained by 300th MP Co.'s Sgt. David Robinson during a training exercise June 10. Halliday and his fellow South African comrades played opposition forces during the exercise.



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The destroyed Al Abarra headquarters building before reconstruction.



Sheikh Izzadine al Ghalib, Gov. Ra'ad al Tamimi cut the cake at a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking completion of renovation on the Al Abarra headquarters. Mayor Zaidy of Khan Bani Sa'ad, and Lt. Col. Oscar Hall IV, battalion commander, look on.

Fort Riley tankers help rebuild headquarters

By Capt. Phil LaCasse
2nd Bn., 34th Armor

Soldiers and leadership of the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, attended a ribbon cutting ceremony June 8 for a rebuilt gov-

ernment building in Al Abarra, a small city about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad in Iraq's Diyala Province.

The building doubles as headquarters for an Iraqi Army company that operates in the area.

The ceremony, attended by

newly elected Gov. Ra'ad al Tamimi of the Diyala Province, commemorated the rebuilding of the Al Abarra Government Building and Iraqi Army Headquarters from damage it sustained in an insurgent attack March 20.

"This was truly a great day for the people of Al Abarra," said Lt. Col. Oscar J. Hall IV, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, commander. "This headquarters represents the resilience of the Iraqi Army and ensures that anti-Iraqi forces will have no refuge here."

Al Abarra was once a Baath stronghold and insurgent sanctuary, but the increased strength of the Iraqi Army resulting from U.S. Army training, joint operations and constant pressure has resulted in the capture of key insurgents and the reduction of their influence in the area.

Three months ago, the conflict reached a flash point when insurgents attacked the Iraqi Army headquarters in Al Abarra with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device followed by small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire.

The Iraqi Army Soldiers stood their ground and fought off the attack, killing two attackers and taking three prisoners. "Our quick response allowed for a rapid joint

offensive operation that resulted in the capture of weapons, explosives and other materials to include a video of the attack," Hall said.

Further investigation produced evidence that implicated a local police chief in assisting those who perpetrated the attack. Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, took him into custody the day after the attack.

Immediately following the attack, coalition forces and the Iraqi Army began plans to rebuild the structure. Some 90 days later, the renovations were complete

and full government service had been reestablished. During the reconstruction, government services temporarily moved to a nearby school.

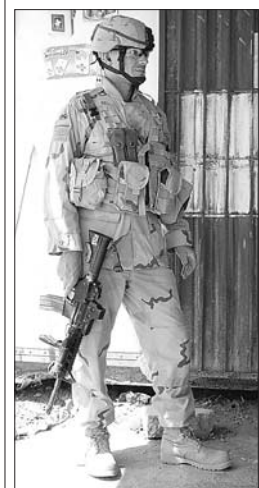
"I applaud the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi people for their refusal to be intimidated by terrorists," Hall said.

Soldiers of Company C, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, conduct joint raids with the Iraqi Army company on a weekly basis. They have apprehended numerous insurgents in the past weeks, including the leader of an insurgent cell based near Al Abarra.

"We receive actionable intelligence from the Iraqi Army and then work up a plan with them to act on that intelligence," Hall said. As the Iraqi Army becomes more proficient, they take a more active role in the operations.

"Our Iraqi Army brothers know that we have their back, just like we did on the night of March 20," Hall said. "The next step is getting them to the point where they have their own back."

The three insurgents taken prisoner March 20 remain incarcerated in Abu Ghraib for their involvement in the attacks.



Soldier patrols market area

Sgt. 1st Class Bill Riel of 1st Battalion, 13th Armored Regiment, assigned to 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, patrols a market in Taji, Iraq, during an economic survey mission.

100th MPAD/
Bromley

COTTONWOOD THEATERS

1 x 3"
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1x3 Cottonwood June

CITY OF MANHATTAN

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Black Only
2x3 city of man arts and park

USAA-ARM FORCES COMM.
4 x 10"
Black Only
#557398/More Than 5 Million

HAMILTON ENTERPRISE
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 Coronado Mini Storage

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 3.5"
Black Only
2x3.5 Mil Outlet 6/17 4323 ml



Commentary

Friday, June 24, 2005

Fort Riley Post

Page 5

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What does "service to country" mean to you? Is service to country limited to military service?



"Defending where you live, like the song, 'Freedom Isn't Free.' You have to work for everything."

Spec. Daniel Beckers
190th Field Artillery
Home: Billings, Mont.



"Of course, you don't have to be in the military to serve your country. I think the idea of believing what your country was based on is the root of serving your country."

Spec. Creag Dearborn
977th Military Police Company
Home: Olcott, N.Y.



"(Service to country) can include people who also support the military."

Ashley Griffith
Military Spouse
Post Library Clerk
Home: Basehor, Kan.



"Anyone who is an informed citizen and people who are active in their communities serve their country."

Victoria Martin
Lead Librarian
Home: Manhattan, Kan.



"Any service that supports the well being of our nation. It is not limited to military, but it's the highest level of service because of its sacrifices."

Sabra Schweger
Military spouse
SFC's volunteer
Home: Allen, Kan.

Next week's question:

Do you read the Post? If not, why? If you do, what more would you like to find in the post newspaper?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

By Paul H. Inman

Installation Safety Manager

Of all the holidays throughout the year, the Fourth of July typically presents the greatest risk of fire danger and injuries for adults and children. The Consumer Products Safety Commission reported that in 2003 (latest data), six deaths and 6,800 injuries were associated with fireworks. Almost half of those injuries were to children under the age of 15.

As usual, the Fourth of July celebrations show many types of fireworks and other explosives. Fireworks can be very exciting and fun to watch; however they have the potential to become extremely dangerous to those lighting them as well as to the



Paul Inman

your community:

- Don't let small children play with fireworks or set them off without adult supervision;
- Read the warnings, rules and instructions on fireworks and follow their direction;
- Wait several minutes before walking up to a firework that

bystanders.

As we enjoy watching and shooting fireworks, please be aware of the following safety tips:

- Check local laws to ensure you may enjoy fireworks in

didn't go off and do not attempt to relight duds or misfires.

- Place duds or misfires in a bucket of water placed nearby in case of an emergency; and always,

- Buy your fireworks from a reliable retailer.

Sparklers are a great way to light up the night on the Fourth of July. As exciting as these items are to small children, it is important they be used only by children five years old or older. Children younger than five are too young to understand how to use them properly.

When using sparklers, make sure your child's clothes are tight-fitting to help prevent clothing from igniting. Additionally, protect children from injury by tying back long hair.

For the four-legged members

of your family, this holiday can be quite frightening. Scared pets may try to jump through windows, over fences, break ropes and run blindly in order to get dark.

The easiest way to keep your pet safe is to keep them inside.

Take them inside in the late afternoon before it starts to get dark.

Some animals may react violently and in some instances may need to be sedated. If your pet has difficulty during this festive time, ask a veterinarian for assistance.

As we enjoy the Fourth of July and the hot weather associated with the summers in Kansas, please remember to drink plenty of water or drinks formulated to replenish your body's fluids and improve its ability to cool itself and prevent over heating.

Leader's comment

Preston: Transformation good for families

Editor's note: The following comments were made by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston during a June 9 interview with a Pentagon Channel broadcaster and reported in an article by Sara Wood of the American Forces Press Service.

The Army has three primary initiatives in the transformation process, all of which aim to increase the number of deployable units and take pressure off Soldiers and family members who have had to deal with back-to-back deployments.

We can talk about being more expeditionary — being able to get to the fight quicker. We can talk about being more relevant and ready as a force.

We can talk about being modular, but a lot of that doesn't mean a lot to the private first class, the specialist, the sergeant or the spouse of a staff sergeant. What transformation's going to do for them is give them predictability and stability.

The first initiative the Army is working on is restructuring divisions by adding brigade combat teams. There were 33 BCTs at the start of 2004, and the goal is to have 43 by the end of 2006.

Last year, brigades were added to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky.; the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y.; and the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Ga. Three more BCTs will be added in 2005 and four in



Kenneth Preston

2006. The second transformation initiative is increasing the number of low-density, high-demand career fields, such as military police and psychological operations, which traditionally have fewer Soldiers than other units and are needed more often for deployments.

In the next two to three years, 100,000 to 115,000 Soldiers in the active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve will be taken out of high-density, low-demand units and put into the high-demand units.

The intent of this initiative is to rebalance the force and reduce the number of deployments Soldiers in high-demand units are serving.

The third initiative is to increase the active-duty force by 30,000 Soldiers. Within the last year, the Army has gained the authority to increase its force, and that will be done through recruiting and retention efforts.

Our goal is to get there as quick as we can. Soldiers in the BCTs and their families will have even more stability in their lives through the life-cycle management system.

Living on a money plan

Monthly budgets should rely on several factors: how much money is earned, how much is needed to pay bills and satisfy needs, and how much should be saved. To create a budget that complements income, lifestyle and future goals, Soldiers should gather copies of bills and pay statements. Write down the amount of monthly take-home pay at the top of a blank page and make separate columns for fixed monthly expenses, periodic fixed expenses and variable living expenses.

Variable monthly living expenses include groceries, utility fees, dining out, clothing, gas, transportation fares, parking fees, recreation and personal care.

To finish planning a budget, Soldiers should add their monthly expenses to a monthly share of all the other categories. If the amount is higher than monthly take-home pay, Soldiers will need to adjust expenses.

For more tips on managing money, visit ArmyOneSource.com Web at <http://armyonesource.com>.

As new brigades are formed, they will be put into a system that will keep them together for three years. All the Soldiers will stay in that unit for the full three-year cycle and will be encouraged to stay for another cycle after that.

The goal is to have Soldiers spend five to seven years in one place. But the possibilities are there for even more time.

The new life-cycle system will allow military spouses to be more stabilized in their careers and will give military children the opportunity to be competitive for college scholarships.

Also, the goal is to keep units that have been deployed for one year at their home station for two years before deploying again.

Improving quality of life while getting the mission done is what transformation is all about, and the high retention rates the Army

has been enjoying are proof of good morale and strong leadership.

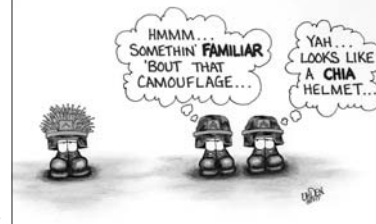
Going into its second deployment to Iraq, the 3rd Infantry Division had a 200 percent retention rate, and National Guard retention is higher than it's ever been. This success can be attributed to a few different things, such as command climate and Soldiers' belief in the mission in Iraq.

It's a real-world mission. Soldiers believe in what they're doing, and they can really see that they are making a difference over there.

I want Soldiers to be proud of the job they do. I always talk to them about being our nation's next greatest generation, and they really are.

They're doing a magnificent job out there in the global war on terror and they represent Americans very well every day. They make us proud every day.

Grunt By Wayne Uhden



FORT RILEY POST

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What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas): _____



Spec. Eric Schreiner, a Dunedin, Fla., native and node center operator for 1st Plt., 596th Sig. Co., monitors a communications network at Camp Taji.

100th MPAD/Wester



Pfc. Bryan Galloway, a multi-channel systems operator and maintainer for 1st Plt., 596th Sig. Co., 3rd Bde., 1st Armored Div., adjusts a communications antenna at Camp Taji, Iraq. The antennae need to be adjusted after high winds and storms.

100th MPAD/Wester

Is your unit trying something new with training? The Post wants to publicize your efforts. Call the editor at 239-8854. Let's talk.

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Signal

continued from page 1

inspecting the condition of their antennas, cables and other communication devices.

"The hotter it gets, the more wear and tear the equipment takes," Bjorkman said. "If it's 120 degrees outside, it can get even hotter in the communications shelters."

He explained that his Soldiers primarily use air conditioning to cool the communication hubs, called node centers, and he has even seen Soldiers use damp T-shirts to protect vital components in extreme heat.

"The switching shelter is kind of the brains of it all, and if it gets too hot, it will shut down," Jones said. "We've got commercial air conditioners and insulation to make sure that doesn't happen."

Sandstorms, which are common in Iraq, also can interfere with communications functions.

Pfc. Bryan Galloway, a multi-channel systems operator and maintainer for 1st Platoon, said antennae need to be adjusted after high winds and storms. Small adjustments can make a big difference in signal quality, he said.

Bjorkman said that if the signal were off somewhat, subscribers using phones would have large

delays or gaps in the transmission of their conversation.

It isn't just forces of nature that disrupt transmissions, however.

"We run a lot of cables, and we've had a lot of cables cut. People don't notice them or see them and think they can drive over them with tracked vehicles," Bjorkman said. "That just doesn't work."

The platoon solved that problem with some creativity. Bjorkman's Soldiers positioned the cables above the vehicle traffic, using trees and poles to support them.

That kind of ingenuity is sometimes necessary during a deployment or when they're in the field

doing the job they were trained to do, Jones said. "In garrison we're basically just maintaining the equipment," he said. "Out here we're actually operating our equipment and doing what we like to do best."

Schreiner said during training exercises in the United States the phone lines don't see as much use as they do during deployments. "It's kind of a lifeline out here, either for the warfighters to communicate or even for morale calls home," he said.

Schreiner said he believes the 596th Soldiers are able to provide that lifeline because they are part of a tight-knit group, are professional and all know their jobs.

Bjorkman attributes the efficiency of his unit to hard work.

"A lot of times our Soldiers are out in the heat of the day doing fairly unpleasant things to make sure other Soldiers have voice and data communications," he said.

"I'm extremely proud of them, and I know they are going to continue to do a great job for the rest of the deployment."

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Army secretary visits Fort Riley



Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey welcomes home 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, Soldiers at Fort Riley's Soldier Readiness Processing site June 16. Post/Blackmon

Major promotions earned faster, rank worn longer

By Cheryl Boujnida

Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Army has increased its career developmental timeline for active-duty majors by one year, while shortening time spent as a captain.

The initiative, recently approved by Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey, reduces pin-on time to major from 10 years and seven months to 10 years. In order to implement this, two major promotion boards will be conducted in fiscal year 2006.

The change sets the developmental timelines in synchronization with the Army's modularity, transformation and intermediate-level education requirements, said

Col. Mark Patterson, chief, Officer Policy Division, GI, at the Pentagon.

Patterson said modularity and the new units of action have created a need for more majors in many career fields, but the real reason for the change is to allow majors time for a joint-service assignment.

Majors currently serve five years before pinning on lieutenant colonel rank insignia.

"The emphasis on joint operations is crucial — joint is the future. We need to look at joint assignment opportunities and how Soldiers get that experience," Patterson said.

Beginning in 2007, no more waivers will be granted for joint service, and colonels will need a

joint assignment to be competitive for promotions, Patterson said.

The reduction in time spent as a captain aligns the Army with other armed services.

The Air Force and Marine Corps promote captains to majors in 10 years and three months. The Navy's promotion time from 0-3 to 0-4 is nine years and 11 months.

The early promotion goal will affect the current fiscal year 2005 major Army promotion board that will be released in June. Officers will pin on their rank sooner.

"The goal is to begin promoting in August and exhaust the list by March 1, 2006," Patterson said.

Two separate major promotion boards will be held in FY 2006. The first board will convene Sept. 6, and the second will meet in April.

Air support squadron welcomes new commander

Stephanie Perrin

Staff writer

"Sir, I relinquish command."

"Sir, I assume command."

Those eight spoken words marked an ending and new beginning for the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Riley.

Lt. Col. Peter Iversen assumed command of the squadron at a change of command ceremony June 16.

He succeeds Lt. Col. Thomas Bednarek, who had commanded the squadron since June 2003. As commander, Bednarek led the squadron during a deployment to

Ar Ramadi, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Iversen graduated from the College of St. Thomas at St. Paul, Minn., and was commissioned through the Reserved Officer Training Corps.

He attended undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Okla., and earned his pilot's wings in November 1987. Iversen then completed Strategic Air Command's B-52 Combat Crew Training at Castle AFB, Calif.

Iversen was assigned to the 60th Bombardment Squadron for his first B-52 operational assignment at Anderson AFB, Guam.

He was certified in sea surveil-

lance with the Harpoon antiship missile, sea reconnaissance and aerial mine laying.

His next assignment transferred him to the 62nd Bombardment Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La., where he became certified in nuclear single integrated operational plan and conventional missions.

Iversen then deployed to Moron AB, Spain, in support of Operation Desert Storm.

He later became a B-52 aircraft commander and was appointed as an assistant flight commander for the 20th BS at Barksdale AFB after completing SAC's combat flight instructor course at Castle

AFB.

He was then appointed chief instructor pilot for the 20th Bombardment Squadron after attending the combat flight instructor course.

His helped create a new B-52 formal training unit at Barksdale AFB during his next assignment. Iversen was responsible for the transition of the military academic instructor program to a \$15.5 million contracted civilian instructor program.

He also was responsible for all B-52 FTU aircrew flight training as director of training for the 11th Bombardment Squadron.

Iversen served with 10th ASOS

once before, as an air liaison officer. After two months at Fort Riley, he deployed with the squadron to Constanta, Romania, and then to Irbil, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In January 2004, he deployed to Iraq for the second time, as the air liaison officer with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

Iversen's completed Squadron Officer School as the distinguished graduate and holds a master's degree in aviation management.

He is a command pilot with more than 3,500 flight hours.

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Montana Guardsmen ride hills of Fort Riley

Provost marshal taps provisional military police unit for community law enforcement role



Post/Heronemus

Four members of 1st Bn., 190th FA (MP Prov.), Montana National Guard, prepare to go on Bike Patrol June 13. The mobilized Guardsmen spending a year at Fort Riley are (from left) Pfc. Kevin Butler, Spc. Lane Erdahl, Spc. Craig Stockman and Staff Sgt. Cody Shandy. The Bike Patrol is a community law enforcement element of the Provost Marshal's Office.

By Douglas W. Plummer
105th MPAD

When Fort Riley's Community Oriented Patrol rolls on a police call, they do it on two wheels.

Members of Company A, 190th Field Artillery Battalion, Montana National Guard, mobilized as newly trained provision military policemen at this year. Six of them ride bicycles as part of their law enforcement duties at Fort Riley.

Staff Sgt. Cody Shandy supervises the patrol, which members of the post community refer to as the "Bike Patrol."

All the company's Soldiers completed military police training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., before reported for duty at Fort Riley. All staff sergeants and Soldiers higher in rank also completed a one-month course dealing with domestic violence.

Three "Bike Patrol" noncommissioned officers also attained national accreditation from the International Policeman's Mountain Bike Association.

The IPMBA course provided the three Soldiers training about Kansas laws and weapons control techniques to use while riding their bikes.

"There was also really good training during various confidence training sessions to develop dismount techniques, balance drills and tight quarters maneuvering," Shandy said.

The COP program focuses on keeping members of the community safe "all of the time and everywhere," Shandy said.

"We operate 18 hours a day and 7 days a week, weather permitting, of course. Safety is still the No. 1 Soldier care responsibility we have in the unit," he said.

The unit logs between 20 and 25 miles on each of the bikes every day, Shandy said. Patrol routes include the whole post: housing areas, main post, sports complexes, PX mall, shoppettes and Custer Hill.

The "Bike Patrol" uses two types of bikes. One is the Schwinn Mesa mountain bike. The other is

the Specialized Hard Rock Pro mountain bike. The patrol members maintain the bikes just as other Soldiers maintain the equipment they use.

"Maintenance takes up about a half hour of our day," said Spc. Lane Erdahl, a student at Montana State University at Bozeman, Mont.

Maintenance includes cleaning the bike, checking its lights and cleaning and lubricating the drive chain.

"We are all pretty well trained on making the moving parts adjustments, too," Erdahl said, "like the cable function and levers, the de-railers and the brake systems."

Erdahl said patrol members repaired three chains, fixed two

flat tires and replaced two tires since beginning their patrols in March. "We also have a good working relationship with the bike dealer in Manhattan. They're real helpful," he said.

While on patrol, the bicycling MPs relay a frequent message to Soldiers and their family members: approved headgear is a requirement for all human-powered, wheeled transportation on post.

"That's bikes, rollerblades or inline skates and skate boards," the team members pointed out.

"The directive can be found in Fort Riley Regulation 385-10, Change 1, and it's real clear that the installation and division command staffs support and back that," they added.

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POST SERVICE DIRECTORY



Post news in brief

Irwin offers eye appointments

Military family members and military retirees can schedule optometry appointments at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

To schedule an appointment, call 239-DOCS or (888) 239-3627.

Holiday alters trash pickup

The Fourth of July holiday will change the refuse pickup schedule at Fort Riley July 4-8.

The schedule is:

July 4 – No pick up, federal holiday in observance of Fourth of July.

July 5 – Colyer Manor, Main Post, Marshall Field, dumpster at Building 621.

July 6 – Ellis Heights, O'Donnell Heights, Peterson Heights (north of Thomas Avenue) and dumpsters at Buildings 28, 45, 471, 540, 541 and 5309.

July 7 – Warner Heights, Burnside Heights and dumpster at Building 621. (No change from regular schedule.)

July 8 – Meade Heights, McClellan Heights, South Warner Heights, Peterson Heights (south of Thomas Avenue) and dumpster at Building 5309. (No change from regular schedule.)

For more information, call Paul Cassella at 239-6274.

Reward offered for theft info

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$500 reward for information concerning the theft of a motorcycle on post.

The blue and white Yamaha YZ125 dirt bike was reportedly stolen sometime between midnight March 17 and 8:45 a.m. March 18 from the parking lot next to Building 7846.

Anyone with information about this theft should contact the Fort Riley CID office at DSN 856-8641 or at 239-8641 or call the local military police station.

Troop clinic adds services

Behavioral health services are now available at the Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic. Any active duty Soldier can speak with a credentialed social worker in the clinic from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. No appointment is necessary; services are provided on a walk-in basis.

For more information, call the CTMC at 239-4411.

Correction:

In the June 17 issue of the Post, Steven Thompson was identified as a volunteer correspondence clerk at Irwin Army Community Hospital. He is a civilian employee at the hospital.

The Post regrets the error.

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Army tries new enlistment incentives

Marketing effort also targets parents, teachers, other adult 'influencers'

By Donna Miles

AFPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Army hopes to introduce new incentives to attract recruits while working to educate parents, teachers and other adults who influence young people's decision to enlist about the long-term benefits of military service.

Army leaders hope to boost enlistment bonuses to help jumpstart sagging recruiting rates, according to Bill Carr, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for military personnel policy.

They also hope to introduce a new benefit that helps Soldiers pursue

homes.

The incentives, if approved by Congress and signed by the president, would not apply to all Soldiers, but would be selectively applied, depending on person's circumstances, Carr explained June 10.

The current enlistment bonus is \$20,000, the rate introduced in 1999. The version of the fiscal 2006 Defense Authorization Bill under consideration in the House of Representatives proposes raising that amount to \$30,000. Carr said the Army is wants to do even better than that.

Also under consideration is a pilot program that would pay up to \$50,000 in mortgage costs for

recruits who enlist for eight years of duty, Carr said.

Carr said this concept is popular among potential recruits but resonates particularly well among adults who influence their decisions regarding military service.

Army officials expressed concern that these influencers are steering young people away from the military because of concerns that they'll be deployed to Iraq or elsewhere in harm's way.

In response, the Army has launched an information effort to help turn them around and demonstrate that the military is "a good foundation to build the rest of your life on," Carr said.

Television and magazine ads

"... the message has changed more toward why it makes sense for your son or daughter to serve...."

— Bill Carr
Acting Deputy
Undersecretary of Defense
for Military Personnel Policy

directed to these influencers emphasize the educational and personal growth opportunities the military provides.

"The way we represent ourselves has shifted," Carr said.

"In the past, we talked to youth about the advantages of them joining the service. But the message has changed more toward why it makes sense for your son or daughter to serve in the military today and ... what's in it for

them," he explained.

The message doesn't minimize the possibility that recruits may go into combat and face danger, Carr said. Instead, it focuses on "the certainty of what the military has to offer," he said.

When comparing the two, "it's a wonderful calculation," Carr said.

Carr said it's too soon to tell how the new ads or the introduction of shorter-term enlistments have affected recruiting.

The Army began offering a 15-month enlistment option last month.

That option gives recruits in 59 different specialties a choice of following military duty with service in a program such as AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps.

The 15-Month Plus Training Enlistment Option was first introduced in October 2003 as a pilot program in 10 of the Army's 41 recruiting battalions, but was expanded nationwide in mid-May.

Defense officials remain firm against draft to boost numbers

By Donna Miles

AFPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Despite recruiting shortfalls for the active Army and all reserve components except the Air Force Reserve in May, defense officials say they will strive to fill the ranks with the highest-quality recruits possible and have no intention of supporting a draft.

The Defense Department released May recruiting and retention statistics for all four services June 10, providing a department-wide manpower picture.

The Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force met or exceeded their May recruiting goals, but the Army fell short by 25 percent.

The Army had hoped to recruit 6,700 new members in May but missed that mark by 1,661 recruits, DoD officials said.

The Navy enlisted 1,947 members in May; the Marine Corps, 1,904; and the Air Force, 1,049.

On the reserve component front, the Air Force Reserve surpassed its recruiting goal for the seventh consecutive month, enlisting 682 recruits. While the Army Reserve, Naval Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve brought aboard more recruits than in any month since October, all fell short of their goals for May, officials said.

The Army Reserve met 82 percent of its May recruitment goal, enlisting 2,269 Soldiers. The Naval Reserve brought aboard 1,074 Sailors, reaching 94 percent of its May goal; and the Marine Corps Reserve met 88 percent of its recruiting goal, recruiting 955 Marines.

While recruiting numbers for May were lower than hoped – something defense officials acknowledged was expected during the slow spring recruiting season – every service met or exceeded its retention goals for the month.

That's positive news because

military readiness depends on recruiting and retention, and success in one can help offset shortages in the other, said Bill Carr, acting deputy undersecretary for military personnel policy.

"Retention has overachieved, and that has helped the underachievement in some parts of the recruiting effort," he said.

Despite the pressures recruiters are up against – a strong economy, higher recruitment goals and lack of support by many parents and other people who influence a person's recruitment decision – Carr said the military won't drop its standards to fill its ranks.

The Defense Department requires that 90 percent of recruits have high school diplomas and that at least 60 percent of them get higher-than-average scores on the Armed Forces Qualification Test. All active components met these standards in May.

Carr said neither requirement can be easily compromised. High school diplomas represent "a stick-to-it-iveness and ability to

follow through," he said, a strong indicator of whether a recruit will successfully complete an initial enlistment.

In addition, there's a direct, compelling correlation between recruits' aptitude test scores and their productivity and job performance, Carr said. "High aptitude translates into performance," he said.

Similarly, Carr said the Defense Department has no interest in resorting to a draft. "There is zero chance that the department is going to a draft," he said.

Today's weapon systems demand an environment in which experienced noncommissioned officers work hand in hand with junior members so they can develop their skills before advancing in the ranks, Carr said. And that's a dynamic the conscription system simply doesn't promote, he said.

"We need more people beyond their first term of service, and we don't want 'shake and bake' sergeants holding control over lethal systems," he said.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, June 24, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

Sports news in brief

Family Nights scheduled

Families can make a real splash and have lots of fun at the Custer Hill and Main Post pools' Family Fun Nights. Activities include swim, listening to music and frolicking on the giant inflatable obstacle course.

Family Fun Night costs \$5 per family and \$1 for each additional guest (passes not included).

Family Fun Nights will be: **June 24, July 22 and Aug. 19** - 8 to 10 p.m. at Custer Hill Pool
July 8 and Aug. 5 - 7 to 9 p.m. at Main Post Pool
For more information, call 239-2813.

Sports activities scheduled

June 27, 29 - 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Cardio Pump Aerobics
June 27, 30 - noon to 1 p.m., Fitness Yoga
June 28 - 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., PT Power Time
June 28 - 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., Weight Training Express I
June 30 - 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., Weight Training Express II

Fridays - 7 to 10 p.m., open session roller skating, Riley Wheels Skating Rink at King Field House

Saturdays - 6 to 8 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m., open session roller skating (\$1.25 stay-over fee for second session), Riley Wheels Skating Rink

Sundays - 2 to 4 p.m., family skate session, \$1 per family member, Riley Wheels Skating Rink
For more information, call 239-2813.

Prairie Run set for July 23

The Fort Riley Prairie Run consists of three different races, a 10-mile, five-mile and two-mile race. Each race is open to the Fort Riley military community and the public.

The race is scheduled for July 23. It will start and finish at King Field House. The five- and 10-mile races will begin at 7 a.m. and the two-mile race will begin at 7:10 a.m.

Awards will be given to the top three finishers in each gender and age category for each race. An overall first-place award will be given to the top male and female finisher of each race.

Any runner who enters before July 13 pays a registration fee of \$10 and gets a T-shirt. After July 13, the registration fee is \$12 and there is no guarantee late entrants will receive a T-shirt.

The 10-mile race will be used to determine the members of an active duty team to represent Fort Riley at the Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C.

For more information, contact the Fort Riley Sports Office at 239-2172. The registration form is available under the fitness link on the Fort Riley Web site, <http://www.riley.army.mil>.

Bowling camps planned on post

Two youth bowling camps are planned this summer at the Custer Hill Bowling Center on post. Each camp will be two weeks long and cost \$100 per person. Camps will be July 11-22, and Aug. 4-12.

For more information, call (785) 738-7104 or the Custer Hill Bowling Center at 239-4366.

Runners invited to marathon

By Brett Turner
AFPS

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio - Two of the top distance runners of all time will be part of the ninth annual U.S. Air Force Marathon in September.

Bill Rodgers and Alberto Salazar became running legends in the mid-to-late 1970s and early 1980s. They were household

names in the days before the cable television explosion brought new exposure to athletes.

Both will conduct separate free afternoon running clinics and sign autographs at the marathon sports and fitness expo Sept. 16 at Wright State University's Ervin J. Nutter Center in Dayton, Ohio. The pair also will be keynote speakers at the pre-race pasta dinner at 6 p.m. the same day.

The U. S. Air Force Marathon

will be Sept. 17 near the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB. Opening ceremonies will be at 7 a.m. The race begins at 7:30 a.m.

It will be the first visit to the Air Force Marathon for Rodgers and Salazar. Both said they are excited about this marathon, which is gaining a reputation in the running world.

"You build a marathon gradually, so it will be fun for me to come

out to running around a base and having the Wright brothers' influence around me," Rodgers said.

Salazar said he will enjoy being part of a military-based marathon, as he has family members in the military, including a brother who is a naval aviator.

Rodgers was ranked the top marathon runner in the world for several years in the 1970s. He won the Boston Marathon in 1975 and 1978-80 and the New York

Marathon in 1976-79. He ran for the U.S. Olympic team in 1976. He has five American records and one world record.

After a strong prep and college career, Salazar won his first New York Marathon in 1980 in the fastest marathon debut time in history at the time. The following year, he broke a 12-year world marathon record in 2 hours, 8 min-

See Marathon, Page 14

Home safely



Post/Blackmon

MP player Kiko Parker (far left) and the MP's next batter look on as teammate Leland Vandeloelt slides home while 101st FSB's Courtney Coburn tries to tag him out.

MPs defeat FSB, 12-4

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

The crowd's bantering grew more heated than the softball game between the 977th Military Police Company and Company B, 101 Forward Support Battalion, June 15.

The "visiting" FSB players started out strong, scoring three runs in the top of the first inning and holding the MPs from scoring during their chance at bat.

The tables soon turned, and FSB failed to score another run until the final inning in their 12-4 defeat at the hands of the MPs.

The MPs put runners on first and second in the bottom of the second inning. A fielding mistake allowed the MPs a triple that scored two runners. The MPs then showed their offensive capabilities and batted through their whole line-up.

The MPs scored nine runs and led by six before a pop fly was caught to end the inning.

FSB's time at bat in the third inning was short-lived with three batters up and three batters down. The MPs also failed to score. FSB's shortstop fielded three hits and threw for forced outs on second

base to stop the lead runners.

The MPs repeated their defensive effort in the top of the fourth inning, putting FSB's first three batters out. The MPs fared only a little better, adding one run to spread their lead to 10-3.

Things started to look up for FSB in the top of the fifth inning. They put runners on first and second but an automatic out at second base ended their chance to score.

The MPs scored one more in the bottom of the fifth inning when two batters hit singles and a third swung for a double and RBI.

The MPs' defense again stifled FSB's bats in the sixth inning. FSB got only one runner on base before a caught fly ball sent them to the field.

The MPs scored one more run in the bottom of the sixth. A triple followed a double to push the run across home plate, and then the FSB defense tightened up and ended the inning with a force out at first base.

FSB saw some hope in the top of the seventh inning. A triple followed a single and scored their fourth run of the game. However, time was called before FSB could finish batting, leaving the score at 12-4, in the MPs' favor.



Co. B, 101st FSB, shortstop Chad Green throws to first baseman Jarrod Norton, but Jon Phender of the 977th MP Co. makes it safely to first.
Post/Blackmon

National Guardsman reigns in 'Cage'

By April Blackmon
Staff writer

When Chico Reyes joined the Army National Guard in 2001, he had no idea it would lead him to becoming "King of the Cage."

Reyes learned hand-to-hand combat and the basics of jiu-jitsu in basic training at Fort Stewart, Ga.

He made such an impression on the Guard superiors, they sent

him to officials at the King of the Cage tournament, he said.

"We'd do these little tournaments in Columbus, Ga. They started a record for you and my record was submitted to the Independent Federation of Martial Arts. My record was good enough ... so they sent me this invitation to the world championship tournament," Reyes said.

Reyes said he decided to give the 2003 tournament in New York City a try.

"I only did it because I was bored at work and school. I paid my own way. I didn't have a coach," Reyes said. "I went into the tournament being last. I just came through and ended up winning."

After winning the amateur league world championship, Reyes said he received several sponsorships and was signed to a fighting team.

He also was guaranteed a spot in the 2004 tournament in Mexico

City. There, he successfully defended his world champion title. Reyes also won the league title in 2004 and the world championship again in 2005 in Germany.

King of the Cage is an amateur martial arts tournament similar to the popular Ultimate Fighting Championship games.

In this full-contact cage fighting sport, barefoot, shirtless fighters - from diverse backgrounds, including jiu-jitsu, karate, kick-

boxing and wrestling - battle for 15 to 25 minutes in an octagonal cage. There are three rules: No hair pulling, no blows to the groin and no biting.

"The competitions are tough. A lot of it is mental. You can be the strongest man in the world, but if you don't know what the hell you're doing, you'll get beat," Reyes said. "I'm in the amateur league. So every time you see

See King of the Cage, Page 13





Sports news in brief

Scuba classes offered at YMCA

Fort Riley's Outdoor Recreation Center is offering a two-day class teaching the fundamentals of scuba diving, including equipment needed and techniques. People who successfully complete the course and pass the test will receive their open water certification.

Classes will be July 8-10 at the Junction City YMCA. The \$250 registration fee includes instruction, books and pool time. Mask, fins and snorkel are not included.

Interested participants must sign up by July 1. For more information or to sign up, call the Outdoor Recreation Center at 239-2363.

Gymnastics classes slated

Gymnastics classes will be held at the Teen Center, Building 5800, Tuesdays through Thursdays after school for children 3 to 15 years old.

Cost is \$30 per month for regular gymnastics classes and \$40 per month for the Exhibition Team.

Enrollment for gymnastics will be in the central enrollment office in Building 6620 from 1 to 5 p.m. through Sept. 3.

Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services and must have a sports physical less than one year old at the time of registration. A school health assessment which states "cleared for all instructional/SKIES activities" will be considered the same as a sports physical.

CYS registrations and re-registrations are by appointment only. Registration is \$18 per child or \$40 for a family.

For more information and appointments, call 239-4847 or 239-9478.



Post/Pruente

Sgt. Dustin Kelly (right) of Co. A, 1st Eng. Bn., speaks with a reporter at the Kansas City Royals Military Appreciation Night while Sgt. Norman Inch II of HHC, 1st Eng. Bn., looks on. Kelly threw the first pitch during the pre-game activities and Inch was his catcher.

KC Royals honor military

By Cassidy Hill

Com. Rel. Specialist

The Kansas City Royals honored two Fort Riley Soldiers at their Military Appreciation Night June 14.

Sgt. Dustin Kelly of Company A, 1st Engineer Battalion, threw the first pitch during the pre-game activities and Sgt. Norman Inch II of Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Eng. Bn., caught his pitch.

Kelly said he gets a little nervous when he is in front of a lot of people and his biggest fear of throwing the first pitch was when he saw the thousands of people in the stands. Aside from being nervous, Kelly said throwing the first pitch was a great experience.

"It was an honor to be able to throw the first pitch for the Kansas City Royals," Kelly said. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I'm really glad I had the opportunity to do it."

Before the pre-game activities, Kelly and Inch practiced throwing and catching. Inch said his biggest fear was that he wasn't going to catch the ball.

"Sgt. Kelly came through, and we got the ball in the glove," Inch said.

Inch, who is from Hutchinson, Kan., said he is a Kansas City Royals fan and has been to Kauffman Stadium to see the Royals take on other teams. He said it was great to be honored at the stadium, and he

was glad to be a part of the pre-game activities.

Also honored at the Kansas City Royals Military Appreciation Night was a four-man color guard from the Greater Kansas City Company and the 312th Army Reserve Band based in Lawrence, Kan.

The Royals defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-2. All military members and their families received free admission to the game.

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Coors Freedom Run scheduled for July 4

Staff report

The 29th annual Coors Freedom Run covers 10 kilometers (6.1 miles) on a certified course through Junction City July 4.

The race begins at 7:30 a.m. and a one-mile fun run begins at 9 a.m. The fun run is free to all entrants who sign a release waiver before the race. Prizes will be awarded to the first 50 finishers in the fun run.

Entry fee for the 10K Coors Freedom Run is \$15, and racers must register before July 4. No entries will be accepted the day of the race.

Runners compete for prizes in age and gender divisions and for best male and female time.

Division winners receive plaques. Runners placing second through fourth in each division receive medals.

Overall winners receive \$200. Each master age division winner

Freedom Run

For entry information, or to register, visit www.sundownsalute.org or send e-mail to Jerry or Kelly Frakes at jccor@nqks.com.

will receive \$25 plus an age division trophy. Second place master age finishers receive \$15, and third place finishers receive \$10.

Any runner who breaks the overall course record for men or women earns an extra \$100. Brian Jensen of Lawrence set the men's record of 35:15 in the 2000 run. Maria Rhoden of Topeka set the women's record of 40:52 in 1999.

Each registered runner in the Freedom Run also receives a race T-shirt.

Race packets will be available to runners before 6:30 a.m. on race day in Heritage Park.

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Bicyclists raise money for wounded Soldiers



Courtesy photo
(From left) Soldier Ride 2005 participants Heath Calhoun, Ryan Kelly and Chris Carney lock hands in Marina Del Ray, Calif., before departing on their 4,200-mile cross-country bicycle ride to benefit wounded servicemembers.

By Steven Donald Smith
AFPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Four thousand miles is a long distance to travel, especially if a bicycle is the mode of transportation. The riders of Soldier Ride 2005 are trekking 4,200 miles from Marina Del Ray, Calif., to Montauk, N.Y., on the eastern tip of Long Island to raise money for injured servicemembers. They rode near Fort Riley, on U.S. Highway 24, June 17. The riders began their journey May 21 and are scheduled to conclude July 19. Chris Carney, a bartender at Stephen Talkhouse music club in East Hampton, N.Y., founded the nonprofit Soldier Ride after he visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center with his friend and boss Peter Honerkamp. Carney was so moved by what he saw at Walter Reed that he came up with the idea for a cross-country bicycle ride to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project, he said. "Once we visited with these incredibly brave men and women, we were totally committed to do whatever it takes to help them," Carney said. The Wounded Warrior Project provides free services and counseling for severely wounded troops from the time they arrive at the hospital through their recovery and rehabilitation stages. Patti Walker with Fort Riley's

Wounded Soldier Outreach Support group said the Wounded Warrior Project "is a very large support of Fort Riley and the WSOS. They send me case after case of back packs for our wounded and have donated many miles for our spouses and parents" to be with their wounded Soldiers during recovery. "This all comes at no expense to the Soldier or his family. I, for one, am a huge fan of the Wounded Warrior Project. Without them, the WSOS would not be what it is today," she said. John Melia, a former Marine who was injured in a 1992 helicopter crash off the coast of Somalia, is a WWP founder. "We at Wounded Warrior Project feel Soldier Ride is an amazing initiative, and it fits perfectly with our mission of assisting severely wounded servicemembers and honoring the courage of these men and women," Melia said. In 2004, Carney raised more than \$2 million for WWP by cycling in the opposite direction, from Montauk to San Diego. This year, Carney has enlisted Heath Calhoun and Ryan Kelly as riding partners with the goal of raising \$5 million. Calhoun and Kelly lost limbs in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Calhoun is a double leg amputee, and Kelly lost his right leg just below the knee. Calhoun served as a squad leader with the Army's 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne

Division. A rocket-propelled grenade hit his truck on Nov. 7, 2003, causing such severe damage that both of his legs had to be amputated above the knee. Calhoun rides a special handcycle that he pedals with his arms. Kelly was with the Army's 490th Civil Affairs Battalion from Abilene, Texas. "Kelly was on his way to a conference on rebuilding the country's schools and hospitals when his convoy was ambushed. An explosive device destroyed his right leg," said Nicci Zizelis, lead coordinator for Soldier Ride 2005. Along the way, the riders will participate in a number of special events. For instance, Calhoun threw out the first pitch at Dodger Stadium on May 23, and when they arrived in Las Vegas on May 26, the mayor declared it "Soldier Ride Day."

Other amputees from the war in Iraq will join the ride at various stages, Zizelis said. A press release stated, "Soldier Ride and Cannondale Bicycle Corp. are outfitting wounded Soldiers with bikes and any prosthetic adaptation that's needed. Organizers are working closely with the experts at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to ensure the Soldiers get the appropriate equipment, so they're able to not only manage the bike for this venture, but also keep this equipment and enjoy its use for years to come." Carney said that even though he has never been in the military, he believes it is his duty to serve the nation by helping to care for severely wounded servicemembers, and that he feels great doing it. "This is by far the most rewarding thing I've done in my life," Carney said.

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King of the Cage

continued from page 11

King of the Cage on TV, that's not going to be me. We got done prior to the professionals you see on TV." While Reyes's area of strength is in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, he said it's important to know some about all the methods used in competition. "You have to know basics of everybody's style so you can at least counter what they're going to do," he said. Reyes has dominated the lightweight class for the past three years. But at 5-foot, 5-inches, Reyes is a class underdog size-wise. "I'm so tiny compared to everyone. Everybody's tall and skinny, at least two inches taller than me," he said. "The way I win a lot of my fights is through submissions or choke outs." Being activated for duty at Fort Riley recently has affected his training, but Reyes said it might be a strategic benefit to have some time off from competing. "I think it'll help me in a way," he said. "Being the champ for three years now, everybody's studying tapes of me and how I fight. This way, I can change my style of fighting and train differ-

ent than in the past," Reyes said. "This year I think I'm going to put a little kickboxing in my style, because I'm not known to throw punches." Training less, though, will make the 2006 competition a difficult one, he said. "I think this year will be my hardest year. Now that I'm here, I don't train as much, but usually I like to. Probably toward the end of year I'll start getting ready for next year's tournament. Hopefully I'll make a good showing." While Reyes said he has enjoyed competing in the King of

the Cage tournaments, he plans to retire from competing in the near future. "Now that I'm here, I'm trying to set new goals for myself. I just graduated college. I'm applying for Fear Factor," he said. A kindergarten teacher when he's not on active duty, Reyes recently received his bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Montana State University. His ultimate goal is to become a child psychologist, he said.

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Want to run?



The Air Force Marathon offers several races, including the full 26.2-mile marathon and wheelchair race; a 13.1-mile half-marathon; a four-person relay race in which each member runs a section of the course; and a 5K race.

Registrations will be taken online at afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil/registration.htm through Sept. 2.

Entry fees are \$45 for individual and wheelchair marathon entries, \$160 for marathon relay team, \$30 for the half-marathon and \$15 for the 5K run.

Marathon

continued from page 11

utes and 13 seconds.

Salazar also won what is considered the most memorable finish in Boston Marathon history in 1982. He fought a battle the final mile with Dick Beardsley — the guest speaker at last year's pre-race pasta dinner — out-kicking him in the final stretch in what became known as "the Dual in the Sun."

Salazar earned six U.S. records and one world record in his career. After a hiatus, he came back in 1994 to win the 53-mile Comrades Marathon, an ultra-marathon race in South Africa.

Rodgers said he and Salazar have known each other since the latter's high school days. Although not racing as much, both are active shoe company spokesmen, and they conduct clinics, work with runners and do speaking engagements throughout the year.

The world-class runners' enthusiasm in encouraging other runners seems as boundless as their prowess for winning in their hey-

day. Their clinics will cover all aspects of training.

"Running is a great way to keep fit. It has it all," Rodgers said.

The Air Force Marathon has grown nearly every year since its debut in 1997. Rodgers and Salazar said that's a good sign.

"It's been shown there (aren't) as many marathons as there were, but new ones coming in (can) be successful, especially being backed by the Air Force," Salazar said. "People are looking for races like this."

Rodgers said it reminded him of how the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C., developed. That race started in 1976 with 1,175 entrants; in 2004, it's 29th year, 16,400 took part, according to the event's Web site.

"Ohio is a big running state, and this race is contributing to this," he said.

Brett Turner is assigned to the 88th Air Base Wing public affairs office.



Army News Service/Eller

Joe Nemecek's 01 Army Chevrolet runs out front during the Batman Begins 400 at Michigan International Raceway. Nemecek finished the race in sixth place.

Nemecek cruises to sixth-place finish

By David Ferroni

Army News Service

BROOKLYN, Mich. — Joe Nemecek moved into the top 10 on Lap 87 of 200 in the June 19 Nextel Cup race and was chased by almost everyone else until he breezed beneath the checkered flag with a solid sixth-place finish.

The U.S. Army Chevrolet driver ran a consistently strong race that saw him post his second top-10 result in as many weeks.

"This is how we're supposed to be performing," said Nemecek, who collected a season-high third-place finish the previous week at Pocono Raceway. "We really feel like we gave a few races away this year and now we're back on track. Our qualifying effort's back — everything's back. For some reason we've missed it for a few races, but not now."

Nemecek started the Batman Begins 400 in 11th position but fell back in the opening stages of the race because his car handled

loosely. An early change to the 01 Chevy set the machine in motion and Nemecek quickly drove toward the top 10.

Running third with just 30 laps remaining, a final yellow-flag was waved and Nemecek brought the 01 Chevy down pit road.

"We got two tires on that last stop with 25 laps to go and for some reason my car got really tight in and loose off the corners," Nemecek said. "I went to pass the (No.) 97 and he took the air off the spoiler and got me loose and three or four or five cars got

by me. So then I had to work to pass all of them back before the end of the race."

"I think our U.S. Army Chevy was better than sixth place," he continued. "We got up there to the front and I thought we'd be a top-two or three finishing car today."

"We'll take it. It's a good run. We're back on track. I really thank the U.S. Army and MB2 Motorsports. I've got great cars and great engines. We're on a roll."

The Nextel Cup Series competes at Infineon Raceway road course in Sonoma, Calif., June 26.



Post/Blackmon

Second baseman for 10th ASOS, Richard Shaw, waits for the ball that ended up between the feet of a 523rd MP Co. player as he slid into second base. ASOS and the MP's scrimmaged each other June 15, after the game was called because the umpire didn't show. The game will be rescheduled.

Company softball scores for June 15

The 82nd Med. Co. won its games against Trp. D, 4th Cav., 16-4 and Co. B, 101st FSB, 17-11.

The 172nd Chem. Co. team defeated both the 1st Maint. Co., 11-7 and 15th Finance Co., 8-5.

The 383rd Regt. beat Det. D, 15th PSB, 18-8.

The Regiment also beat Co. C, 1st Eng. Bn, 22-7.

Co. A, 1st Bn., 5th FA won 13-4 against the Det. D, 15th PSB.

The 977th MP Co. shut out the 523rd MP Co., 14-0.

The following games were rescheduled for a later date: 10th

ASOS vs. 523rd MP Co.; 10th ASOS vs. 300th MP Co.; and 300th MP Co. vs. 15th Finance Co.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, June 24, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Page 15

Community news briefly

Bible school registration open

Children ages five through 10 can take part in Fort Riley's Vacation Bible School Aug. 1-5. The program will be held at the Morris Hill Chapel from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The registration deadline is July 14.

For more information, contact Sister Caroline at 239-4815 or Don Ericson at 239-0979.

The program also is accepting adult and high school teen volunteers. Those interested in volunteering for the Vacation Bible School can contact Juli Kelly at 784-8333 or by sending e-mail to kellytroupe@earthlink.net.

Chaplain to host Muslim gathering

The installation chaplain will host an informal gathering of Soldiers, family members and civilian employees at 6 p.m. July 15 in Normandy Chapel on Custer Hill to assess the spiritual needs of Muslim personnel.

For more information, call Chap. (Col.) Kenneth Sampson at 239-3359.

Cloud students earn honors

The Cloud County Community College Dean's List for spring 2005 included three Fort Riley students.

Jessica Brown, Stephanie Lewis and Julia Solis were recognized for achieving at least a 3.6 grade point average while completing at least 12 credit hours of studies during the semester.

Brown also will appear in the 2005 "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges." She was among 39 students selected at the college.

K-State awards student honors

MANHATTAN — Kansas State University awarded semester honors to more than 1,625 students for their academic performance during the 2005 spring semester.

Fort Riley students among those honored were Mollie Nina Borders, Bonnie June Adams Brestelli, Rosalinda Marrufo Doty, Felicitia Garza-Basalderr, Marisela Maria Gutierrez, Sara Ann Hinman and Leann E. Konken.

Students receiving semester honors rank in the top 10 percent of their class within their respective colleges and were enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of graded course work.

Crafts center classes posted

June 26 — 1 to 4:30 p.m., scrapbooking get-together

June 27 — 7 p.m., crochet, knitting and cross-stitch

June 27 — Beginning sewing (multi-session class)

June 28 — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., wood class (patio furniture, picnic tables, flower boxes and benches)

For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

Teen Center activities set

June 24 — Skating

June 25 — Topeka Zoo trip

July 1 — Flag football

July 2 — Midnight basketball

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

Artist enjoys watercolors

By Morgan Hanson
KSU intern

"The clouds were just perfect, and I was inspired," Cora Duchene said of the reason she painted the Red Cross Building at Fort Riley. The painting she titled "Helping Hand" won first place in the novice water-based painting category of the 2004 Army Arts and Crafts Contest.

Duchene, the wife of retired Air Force Maj. Edward Duchene, first tried her hand at watercolor painting in a high school art class. She

tried all types of painting and drawing, she said, but enjoyed water-based painting most.

She set the hobby aside for years, however, while raising a family. She picked her brushes again about 10 years ago and has been actively painting ever since. Duchene began painting landscapes and flowers until a woman asked her if she would paint her house.

"I'll try," Duchene recalls thinking. Duchene's painting turned out, and she developed a talent for painting buildings as well. She has painted all the

chapels and statues and many of the buildings at Fort Riley.

Duchene's talent is recognized outside Fort Riley as well. The Riley County Historical Society asked Duchene to paint the historical homes put on tour as a thank you gift to the homeowners. Duchene also painted the first territorial state capitol for the Geary County Historical Society.

"Watercolor is the hardest medium in painting," said Marilyn Paras, lead arts specialist for nearly 27 years at the Fort Riley Arts and Crafts Center.

"Cora takes her time, and her

paintings are very precise," Paras said.

Duchene began using the Arts and Crafts Center at Fort Riley about four years ago when she and her husband took the matting and framing class that Paras teaches. Duchene goes to the center once a month with her husband to mat and frame her paintings, she said.

Before Duchene arrives at the matting and framing stage, however, there is much work to be done.

First, she takes three to four

See Arts and crafts, Page 16



Post/Hanson
Cora Duchene placed first in the novice water-based painting category of the 2004 Army Arts and Crafts Contest.

Science fun

Lenz attends technology camp at KSU

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

When Angelia Lenz has a problem with her computer, she asks her 15 year-old daughter for help. Kimberly Lenz said she has always had an interest in computers and hopes to one day work in a career involved with computer chips.

Lenz is the daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Lenz and his wife, Angelia. She will begin the 10th grade in August in Junction City.

She was one of 56 girls enrolled in the Exploring Science, Technology and Engineering workshop called EXCITE and held on the Kansas State University campus June 12-15. The workshop helps motivate ninth- and tenth-grade girls interested in pursuing careers in engineering, technology and the sciences. K-State's Women in Engineering and Science Program sponsored the event.

The girls stayed in Moore Hall dormitory for the four-day program and took part in hands-on activities with K-State faculty, students and high school teachers from across the state. The girls also toured two companies: ScriptPro in Kansas City and Payless ShoeSource Distribution Center in Topeka.

Workshop participants chose from five different study tracks when they enrolled in the program. The different tracks were: aeronautics, nanoscale polymers (computer chips), robotics, rocketry and Web page design. The girls listed their choices from most interested to least interested.

"It was hard for me to rank them because I wanted to do them all," Lenz said.

Lenz said she would have enjoyed working in the nanoscale polymers program to allow her to work with computer chips but was pleased when she learned

See EXCITE, Page 16



Post/Perrin
Betsy Grammel places a submersible thermometer in a stream at the Konza Prairie June 16 as part of the Girls Researching Our World Workshop.

Grammel participates in research workshop

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

Betsy Grammel thought hard about moving into the dorms at Kansas State University for a week. It would be the first time she wouldn't have her mother to remind her to brush her hair and the first time she needed to set her own alarm clock.

Grammel, who turned 12 June 19, was one of 100 girls who participated in the sixth annual Girls Researching Our World workshop June 15-17 at the K-State campus. The participants lived for the three

days and two nights in Moore Hall dormitory. K-State undergraduate students volunteered as chaperones during the girls' stay on campus.

Grammel is the daughter of Lt. Col. Timothy Grammel and his wife, Tammy. The family has been stationed at Fort Riley for three years. She will enter the seventh grade at Fort Riley Middle School in August.

GROW allows sixth- and seventh-grade girls to explore opportunities available in the science and engineering fields.

See GROW, Page 16

Charity cooking to raise dough

Big Taste Grill proceeds go to post club

Special to the Post

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — Johnsonville Sausage plans to serve Johnsonville bratwurst to commissary shoppers at Fort Riley from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 28. Proceeds will go to the Enlisted Spouses' Club.

Johnsonville representatives will prepare the brats on their Johnsonville Big Taste Grill — the world's largest touring grill.

The Johnsonville Big Taste Grill weighs more than 53,000 pounds and measures 65 feet long. It requires a semi-truck to haul it from one location to another.

The grill has hot and cold running water, a prep station and a refrigeration unit. The grill has a capacity to cook more than 750 brats at a time — about 2,500 per hour — and can accommodate more than 12 "grill masters."

Proceeds from sales at the grill benefit local charities and other non-profit organizations. To date, the Big Taste Grill has raised more than \$2 million for charities across the United States and Canada.

Johnsonville bratwursts are a mildly seasoned sausage made using a family recipe brought to the United States in 1945 from 19th century Austria by Ralph F. and Alice Stayer.

Johnsonville is a family-owned business with its primary production facilities in Johnsonville, Wis. GMR Marketing operates the Big Taste Grill.

Marriage and Military Life

Recruitment, divorce: In search of a solution

By Gene-Thomas Gomulka
Retired Navy chaplain

Dear Gene-Thomas,
Recent articles in Stars & Stripes and USA Today called attention to rising military divorce rates. These stories appeared around the same time the Army and Marine Corps admitted to not meeting their recruiting goals. Do you see a relation between these two issues?

— Rick

Dear Rick,
There most certainly is a relationship between current recruiting problems and an increase in military divorces, particularly among personnel who have deployed more than once to Iraq

and Afghanistan.

One of the first persons to identify this relationship was David Usher, who wrote in May about how divorce and child support are evicating military recruitment. In answering the question, "What is the real reason men are not enlisting?", Usher wrote:

"Men are not stupid. They have learned that when they are patriotic and join the military, the chances are better than 50 percent that they will end up divorced and come home to a huge child support debt."

While Usher does not discount how many may be discouraged by the prospect of being killed or wounded in combat, he does note how one can be a war casualty

About the author

Gene-Thomas Gomulka is a retired Navy chaplain and author of "The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military," available at www.plaintec.net

Have a question? Write Gene-Thomas at letters@plaintec.net



even without earning a Purple Heart.

Following his return from Iraq, a chaplain went with a sergeant from his unit to visit a comrade who had lost a limb in combat. When they were driving back after their visit, the sergeant told the chaplain something he will never forget. The sergeant said

that he would gladly have suffered the loss of an arm or a leg rather than have suffered the loss of his wife, who was divorcing him and seeking custody of their son. It was at that point that the chaplain realized that his unit had suffered far more "casualties" than had been reported by the Pentagon or the media.

Military personnel who are happily married are more likely to make the military a career than personnel who divorce or have problematic marriages. Consequently, retention rates drop when more military couples divorce. Decreasing retention rates result in increased recruiting accession goals. It's not surprising, therefore, that as Army and Marine Corps retention rates go down, recruiting goals are going up, some of which are not being met.

If DoD wants to help recruiting, it must promote retention. If it wants to promote retention, it must provide engaged and married personnel with effective tools to help them survive the chal-

See Divorce, Page 16





Kimberly Lenz (center) enters data for her Rover Bot into the computer while fellow student, Lauren Bealer (right) and instructor Kent Dick look on June 15 as part of the EXCITE program on the K-State campus.

EXCITE continued from page 15

she was assigned to the robotics track.

The girls assigned to the robotics track made distance sensors and Rover Bots. Plastic soap dishes served as the cover for the distance sensors and Lego Mindstorms pieces created the robot bodies. Adding the distance sensors allowed the robots to maneuver around objects or travel along the wall by themselves.

The participants used a computer program to enter their robot's desired maneuvering information and the information

was then downloaded to the robots. The information downloaded to the robots included degrees for turns and the distance for the robots to keep between them and objects. Each robot required different calibrating based on its performance.

The girls raced their robots during their last day on campus.

Participants were paired with teachers from across Kansas to help build their robots. The teachers were involved in a month-long graduate course to help them incorporate math and science pro-

grams they learned at K-State into their classrooms, said Program Coordinator Jessica Heier.

Lenz was grouped with Lauren Bealer, an EXCITE participant from Chapman High School, and teachers Kent Dick from Anthony Middle School in Manhattan and Titus Robison from Cottonwood Intermediate in Liberal.

"I think this experience will be really beneficial for her, because it will help her get closer to her future career," said Alessandra Lenz, 18, Kimberly's older sister.

GROW continued from page 15

The girls participated in hands-on activities with K-State faculty, graduate students and staff members representing 16 different science and engineering departments. Employees from IBM in Kansas City and the U.S. Geological Survey helped conduct some activities. The girls attended some sessions titled, "Critters in a Prairie Stream," "Can a Horse Really Swallow a Camera?" and "Eyes on the World."

Participants visited the Konza Prairie during the workshop and learned about the various environments present in a prairie stream. The girls learned a rifle is an area of shallow fast moving water and a pool is deeper with slow moving

water. The girls waded into the different areas.

The girls also dissected pig eyes during the three-day workshop.

"I was excited for Betsy when she told me about the workshop," said her mother, Tammy. "I hope it continues to encourage her in the science field."

Gammel decided to enroll in the program after learning her friend, Ashley Thomas, had registered for the workshop. She was excited when she learned they were to share a room while living in the dorms.

Gammel said another highlight was meeting K-State faculty and students. She hopes to one

day become a first- or second-grade teacher and enjoyed the opportunity to meet with K-State instructors.

Gammel said she is undecided about where she will attend college because she plans to attend a college near where her family will be stationed at the time.

Gammel's father said she plans to enroll in GROW again next year and enjoyed creating new friendships during the workshop.

"She really enjoyed the workshop," he said. "She got a lot of phone numbers and e-mails from her new friends."

Arts and crafts continued from page 15

digital photographs of the object she will paint. She then takes the photographs home and chooses the one that she can paint best.

Duchene draws the picture on the paper before painting it. That takes about two hours and drawing is the hardest part she said.

Finally, Duchene spends on average three to four hours painting the picture. Once the picture is dry, she takes it to the Arts and Crafts Center to mat and frame it.

Duchene sells her paintings and prints at The Shoppe at Fort Riley, where she volunteers to work a couple of times each month.

Painting is not Duchene's only hobby; she also is an avid golfer and enjoys bowling. But watercolor painting is therapeutic, she said.

"I just love to sit down and paint when there's a nice, snowy day," she said.

Days like that allow Duchene to stay inside and paint a picture continuously instead of getting interrupted by the daily business of life.

At 69, Duchene finds watercolor painting to be a profitable hobby, as well as something she enjoys.

"For me, it's a quick, softer way to paint," she said, and she plans to continue painting "as long as I enjoy it."

Arts and Crafts Center

Where: Building 6918 (across from the PX) on Custer Hill

Center Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 1 to 8:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, closed.

Sales Store and Custom Shop Hours: Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, closed.

Phone: 239-9205
Custom Services: Professional matting and framing, imprint shop, ceramic shop, laser engraver, digital photo printer.

Class offerings

Woodshop: Wood Safety (required before using woodshop), Monday evening 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (June 20, July 11 and 18, Aug. 1 and 15), cost \$2.

Wood Class Projects: Sign up one week prior; Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; cost is woodshop usage fee and for materials (different projects each month).

Ceramics: Mold Pouring (required for pouring own pieces), one Tuesday evening (June 21, July 5 and 19, Aug. 2 and 16); 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; cost \$2.

Ceramic Painting/Project of the Month: Sign up one week prior (duration one to two Monday

evenings each month); cost is nominal fee plus supplies.

Matting and Framing: One Tuesday (June 28, July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23), 6 to 9 p.m.; required before using matting and framing area; cost \$5.

Photography: Black and White: one Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. (July 9 and 10, Aug. 13 and 14); cost \$21 (includes one roll of film).

Glass: Stained Glass (five sessions), Monday and Tuesday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; cost \$40 plus supplies; Intermediate/Advanced Stained Glass (five sessions), must take beginner course first; cost \$40 plus supplies; Buildings in Glass (one-day workshop), must take beginner course first; Saturday (June 18 and Sept. 17), 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., cost \$30 plus supplies.

Textiles: Basket Weaving, Monday and Tuesday (call for dates), 6 or 6:30 p.m., cost varies with basket size; Crochet, Knitting, Cross-Stitch, Monday (call ahead to enroll), 7 p.m., take as many classes as desired, free; Quilting Workshop (some sewing machine experience required) four to eight hours, Saturday (call for dates), 9:30 a.m.; Beginning Sewing: Four sessions, cost \$55.

Scrapbooking: Get together with fellow scrapbookers, every Sunday, 1 to 4:30 p.m., free.

Programs aim to reduce military divorce rates

By Donna Miles
AFPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Recognizing the stresses military life and multiple deployments put on families, the services are stepping up their efforts to help their members strengthen their family relationships and avoid the divorce courts.

A full range of outreach programs — from support groups for spouses of deployed troops to weekend retreats for military couples — aims to help military families endure the hardships that military life often imposes.

Specific service-by-service statistics about divorce rates within the military weren't available, but the rates for the Army give a snapshot of what are believed to be a military-wide trend.

Army officials reported 10,477 divorces among the active-duty force in fiscal 2004, a number that's climbed steadily over the past five years.

In fiscal 2003, the Army reported fewer than 7,500 divorces; in 2002, just over 7,000, and in 2001, about 5,600.

During the past two years, the divorce rate has been higher among Army officers than their enlisted counterparts, reversing the previous trend, officials said.

In fiscal 2003, the Army reported almost 1,900 divorces among its 56,000 married officers. The following year, that number jumped to more than 3,300 — an increase of almost 1,500.

These statistics reflect a general trend in American society, Army Chaplain (Col.) Glen Bloomstrom, director of ministry initiatives for the Army's Office of the Chief of Chaplains, pointed out. Forty-five to 50 percent of all first marriages end in divorce nationwide, he said, and the failure rate is even higher for second marriages: a whopping 60 to 70 percent.

Divorce rates run even higher in specific occupations, particularly those that expose people to traumatic events and danger, as well as

heavy responsibilities and public scrutiny, Army officials noted.

Police officers, for example, face a divorce rate averaging between 66 and 75 percent, they said.

Despite the nationwide trends, Bloomstrom was quick to point out that the numbers represent far more than just statistics. "These are people we're talking about," he said. "When a marriage ends, it's the end of a dream."

The toll goes beyond the human side and affects military operations as well, he said. Servicemembers in happy marriages tend to be more focused on their jobs and less likely to become disciplinary problems, Bloomstrom said. They're also more likely to remain in the military.

To help reverse the statistics, the services have introduced new programs and pumped up existing ones offered through their family support, chaplain and mental health counseling networks.

For example, the Army's offerings include:

- **The new Deployment Cycle Support Program**, which includes briefings for Soldiers on how their absence and return may affect their family relationships and how they can cope with the inevitable changes;

- **A family support group system** that provides practical and emotional support for spouses of deployed Soldiers;

- **The Building Strong and Ready Families Program**, a two-day program that helps couples develop better communication skills, reinforced by a weekend retreat;

- **The Strong Bonds marriage education program** that focuses specifically on issues that affect Reserve and National Guard couples; and

- **The Pick a Partner program** that helps single Soldiers make wise decisions when they choose mates.

The Army is not alone in offering programs to help its families survive the rigors of deployments

and strengthen their relationships in the process.

The Marine Corps' Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program is a two-day workshop that teaches couples how to manage conflict, solve problems, communicate effectively and preserve and enhance their commitment and friendship, Marine officials said.

The Marine Corps program focused on what the chaplain calls "the mother lode of all issues" that can affect marriages: communication. "If you don't have good communication skills, you can't talk about the rest of the issues," he said.

The Navy has a similar program in its Marriage Enrichment Retreat. This weekend getaway is designed to give Navy couples the tools they need to help strengthen their marriages, according to Rachelle Logan, public affairs director for Navy Installations Command.

While the Air Force does not have servicewide marital support programs, Air Force officials said individual bases offer a wide variety of programs to support military families and help them through separations and deployments and the stresses relating to them.

Bloomstrom said he's optimistic about the emphasis the military services are putting on programs for married servicemembers.

The goal, he said, is to help couples recognize and address danger signs before they escalate.

Another objective is to help military couples get more satisfaction out of their marriages by injecting a healthy dose of fun and friendship that he said builds up their emotional bank account.

"We're talking about investing in the relationship in the good times," he said. "That way, when you have to make a withdrawal — as you do during a deployment — you still have enough left in the bank to cover it."

Divorce continued from page 15

lenges of military married life.

While most couples who complete premarital inventories experience stronger marriages, some 25 percent of them between the ages of 17 and 25 decide to cancel their marriage plans, often saving themselves from premature commitments that end in divorce.

Additionally, about 25 percent of married military couples who

were considering divorce end up reconciling and finding happiness after seeking professional help from chaplains, counselors or civilian clergy or by using marriage enrichment tools.

After viewing reports that showed how the largest increase in divorce rates has involved Army officers, it would behoove the service academies and ROTC

units to enhance their training in the area of marriage and military life.

Enlisted basic training curriculums should also be critiqued to ensure that personnel from all branches of the armed services are receiving the best training possible to prevent them from becoming divorce statistics or finding themselves unhappily married.

VISION CORRECTION CENTER
3 x 8"
Black Only
Full Color



Post/Perrin

And the band plays on

Members of the Junction City Community Band play their instruments while conductor L.J. Taylor directs. The band played patriotic songs June 17 on the lawn outside the U.S. Cavalry Museum on post.

Classified
4 x 21.25"
Black Only

Community news briefly

Club members seek work

Members of Fort Riley's church youth group, Club Beyond, are looking for summer work. The club's "Teen for Hire" program offers teens to do yard work, baby-sitting and general labor tasks.

For more information or to employ a teen, call 210-6240.

Youth services activities posted

June 24 - 1 to 5 p.m.,
Bogey's Ice Cream/Sunset Park trip, first through fifth grades

June 28 - 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Milford Lake Nature Center, Kindergarten

June 29 - 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., Insect Zoo at K-State, Kindergarten

June 30 - 1 to 4:30 p.m., Milford Lake Nature Center, first and second grades

July 1 - 1 to 4:30 p.m., Wamego Park, first through fifth grades

For more information, call 239-9173.

Rally Point offers fun

June 29 - 5 to 9 p.m.,
Wednesday wing night

June 30 - 95-cent cheeseburger night

July 1 - 5 to 8 p.m., Family Night, family friendly movie, music and buffet

For more information, call 784-5434.

Post childcare available

The Fort Riley Child Development Center has full-day and part-day preschool slots open. For registration information, call 239-4847.

Support Center posts activities

June 27 - Noon to 3 p.m., Spouse Activity Day

For more information, call the Soldier and Family Support Center at 239-9435.

'Rumpelstiltskin' auditions slated

An audition will be held for Missoula Children's Theatre production of "Rumpelstiltskin" from 9 to 11 a.m. July 11 at the Teen Center, Building 5800.

Those auditioning should arrive at 9 a.m. and plan to stay for the full two hours. Some of the cast members will be asked to stay for a rehearsal immediately following the audition.

Among the roles to be cast are Rumpelstiltskin, Clara, a jester, villagers, gnomes, wizards, knights and bees.

Students entering first grade through 12th grade can audition. No preparation is necessary. Assistant directors will also be cast to aid in rehearsals throughout the week and to take on essential backstage responsibilities.

Missoula Children's Theatre touring productions are complete with costumes, scenery, props and makeup. The MCT

tour actor/directors will conduct rehearsals from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day throughout that week.

"Rumpelstiltskin" will be presented July 16 at the Teen Center.

For more information, call Nikki Crismann at 239-9923.

Girl Scouts offer 'Wild' day camp

The Girl Scouts are planning a Born to be Wild day camp at Fort Riley 2 to 4 p.m. July 18-22 at Ware Elementary School.

Campers don't have to be Girl Scouts to attend but they must have completed kindergarten through sixth grade. Scholarships are available to all girls.

For more information, call (800) 432-0286, extension 44.

Kids' summer camp scheduled

The Exceptional Family Member Program Summer Camp will be July 6 at Rock Springs 4-H Center, 5405 W. Kansas Highway 157, south of Junction City. The all-day camp will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. Children must be 6 years and older and enrolled in the EFMP. Parents must provide transportation.

Scheduled events will include canoeing, swimming, horseback riding and archery. While walking to each event, campers will enjoy the beautiful Flint Hills scenery and have lots of fun.

For more information or to sign up, call the EFMP office at 239-9435.

Library program opens pages

Children from 2 years old to second grade are invited to a storytime, snack and a take-home craft at 1:30 p.m. every Saturday.

Children from third grade through eighth grade are invited to a "brown bag story" at noon on Saturdays. Listeners at the "brown bag" noon storytime should bring a sack lunch to eat during the story.

The "brown bag" storytime will feature "Surviving the Applewhites" by Stephanie S. Tolan. "Surviving the Applewhites" is the hilarious story of a young boy who finds acceptance with his artistic but eccentric new foster family. The book won the Newberry Honor Book and William Allen White awards.

Listeners should bring their lunch to eat during the story. Drinks will be provided.

The 1:30 storytimes in June feature books about June bugs, fireflies and butterflies.

Listeners will discover how a cricket learns that each creature is beautiful in its own way when "I Wish I Were a Butterfly" by James Howe is read June 25.

The Post Library is located on Custer Hill in Building 5306. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The library is closed on Mondays.

For more information, call Victoria Martin at 239-5305.





Travel & Fun in Kansas

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America's Warfighting Center

Friday, June 24, 2005

Leisuretime ideas

At the movies:

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$2.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under age 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

June 24, 30 - Monster in Law (PG-13)

June 25 - Kingdom of Heaven (R)

June 26 - Unleashed (R)

July 1, 3 - Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith (PG-13)

July 2, 7 - Mindhunters (R)

July 8 - The Longest Yard (R)

For more information, call 784-2226 or 784-2640.

Kansas City:

What: Kansas City Kansas Street Blues Festival. Largest black neighborhood blues festival in the world. Festival features Kansas City's top music talents with tradition.

When: 12:30 to 8 p.m. June 24, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 25 and 2 to 8 p.m. June 26

Where: 3rd and Parallel

Phone: (913) 371-0024

Admission: Free

Lawrence:

What: St John's Mexican Fiesta. Authentic Mexican food, live entertainment, games and much more.

When: 6 to 11 p.m. June 24-25

Where: 1204 Kentucky, St. John's Catholic Church

Phone: (785) 843-0109

Admission: Free

Topeka:

What: Spirit Of Kansas. Fourth of July celebration with an art/crafts festival, golf tournament, waterski show and the biggest fireworks show in northeast Kansas.

When: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 2-4, fireworks at dark

Where: 3137 SE 29th St., Lake Shawnee

Phone: (785) 267-1156

Admission: Free

Emporia:

What: Daylily Tour. See over 600 varieties of daylilies in all shapes, sizes, true color and vigor.

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 26, 4 to 8 p.m. June 27-July 3

Where: 1534 County Road 170, Toad Hollow

Phone: (620) 343-8655

Admission: Free

Council Grove:

What: Nightworks on the Neosho. Seventh annual old-fashioned celebration of Independence Day with special ceremony, musical entertainment, food and fireworks display.

When: 6 to 10 p.m. July 4

Where: Neosho River Walk

Phone: (620) 767-5882 or (800) 732-9211

Admission: Free

Manhattan:

What: Thunder Over Manhattan. Footrace, pancake feed, rides, food booths, bicycle race, band, dance stage and fireworks display.

When: 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 4

Where: CiCo Park

Phone: (785) 565-2000

Admission: Free

Salina:

What: Wheat Harvest Days and Olde Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration. Demonstrations of rural and agricultural lifestyle featuring horse-drawn binders, antique tractor binding and threshing, and working

steam engine.

When: Noon to 4 p.m. July 4

Where: 1100 W. Diamond Drive, Yesteryear Museum

Phone: (785) 825-8473

Admission: \$5 gate, \$4 advance

What: All American Fourth Play Day in the Park. Old-fashioned fourth of July festival with games, prizes, stage entertainment, food, drink and family fun.

When: Noon to 4 p.m. July 4

Where: Oakdale Park

Phone: (785) 309-5765

Admission: Free

What: Walter P. Chrysler Car Show. All makes and models of cars, trucks and vans. Classic muscle, antiques and street rods.

When: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. July 4

Where: City Park

Phone: (785) 456-7849 or (877) 292-6346

Admission: Free

What: Fourth of July Celebration. One of Kansas' oldest parades, carnival and fireworks display.

When: July 4

Where: Downtown

Phone: (785) 456-7849 or (877) 292-6346

Admission: Free

What: Walter P. Chrysler Car Show. All makes and models of cars, trucks and vans. Classic muscle, antiques and street rods.

When: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. July 4

Where: City Park

Phone: (785) 456-7849 or (877) 292-6346

Admission: Free

What: Tri-County Free Fair. 4-H fair, carnival exhibits in community building, rodeo and demolition derby.

When: 6 to 11 p.m. July 6, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 7-9

Where: 700 S. Broadway, Fairgrounds

Phone: (785) 258-3359

Admission: Free

What: HuchFest. Major entertainment, events for all age groups, ending with one of the States' largest fireworks shows at the State fairgrounds.

When: 6 to 11 p.m. June 27 through July 1, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 2, noon to 10 p.m. July 3 and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 4

Where: Citywide

Phone: (620) 663-7448

Admission: \$3

What: Experimental Aircraft Association Fly-In. More than 100 planes fill the skies. Planes are judged on various items.

When: 6:30 to 9 p.m. July 1, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 2, 7 to 9 a.m. July 3

Where: El Dorado Airport

Phone: (316) 321-1327

Admission: \$3

What: Chisholm Trail Festival. Annual July 4th celebration of the western railroad heritage featuring evening musical entertainment, activities, dances, and ending with stampee in the sky fireworks.

When: All day July 1-4

Where: Athletic Park and Downtown

Phone: (316) 283-2769 or (800) 899-0455

Admission: \$5

What: Battling Dinosaurs Exhibit. Albertasaurus and Thescelosaurus battle in dinosaur display area.

When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 1-31

Where: 835 E. First St., Museum of World Treasures

Phone: (316) 263-1311

Admission: Adult \$9.90; Senior \$6.90; Youth \$5.90

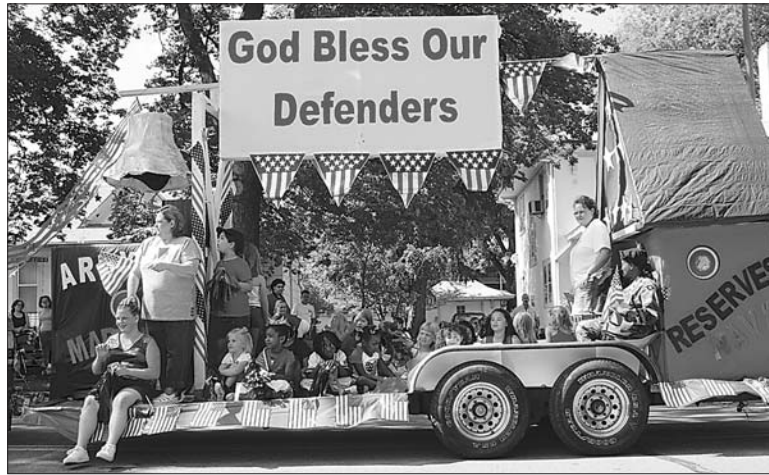
What: Battle of the Bands. Local bands compete for the title of "Best of the Bands" in a variety of genres.

When: 6 to 11 p.m. July 4

Where: Citywide

Phone: (785) 456-7849 or (877) 292-6346

Admission: Free



The Friends of Animals float displays a theme that several parade entries expressed in the 2004 Sundown Salute parade - appreciation for the service of Soldiers at Fort Riley and America's military in general.

Sundown Salute activities set

Staff report

Billed as "The Biggest Free Celebration" in Kansas, Junction City's Sundown Salute 2005 promises family fun, food, fireworks and bands all Independence Day weekend.

The local Fourth of July celebration traces its tradition back more than three decades.

This year's 33rd annual celebration will feature a Battle of the Bands sponsored by Fort Riley's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers from 3 to 8 p.m. July 2 on the concert stage on Sixth Street at Heritage Park.

The Procrastinators jump, twist and stomp their way through drum performances on the concert stage at 8 p.m. July 1, 11 a.m. July 2, noon July 3 and 1 p.m. July 4. The three performers turn five-gallon water bottles, barstools and pots and pans into legitimate musical instruments for their furiously rhythmic shows.

Wur'ship Project takes the stage at noon and 4:30 p.m. July 3 with music ranging from worship and folk to southern rock.

Tequila Sunrise, an Eagles

revival band, performs at 6:30 p.m. July 3, followed by Joel Fry, an up and coming country singer, at 8:30 p.m.

The Jeff Sheetz Band belts out blues and rock tunes at 6:30 p.m. July 4, followed by the rock sounds of 38 Special at 8:30 p.m.

Music won't be the only form of entertainment at this year's Sundown Salute. Llewelyn's Carnival is back with rides set up on Jefferson Street next to the old Opera House.

Reptile Adventures also returns and will show crocodiles, alligators, turtles, tortoises, lizards, spiders, scorpions and snakes to interested spectators inside the Junction City Municipal Building.

The popular petting zoo is back, too, and will be set up in its usual location in the parking lot across the street and east of Heritage Park.

Other activities scheduled include:

- BMX bike riding demonstrations, on Washington Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets July 1 and 2.

- Recitals by Clarabel's Dance Studio students on the concert

stage at 2 p.m. July 3 and in the Municipal Auditorium at 2 p.m. July 4.

- Martial arts demonstrations by students of Alvin Babcock's ATA Karate School on the concert stage at 3:30 p.m. July 4.

- Youth play at the Junction City Little Theatre on 18th Street at 7 p.m. July 1 and 2 p.m. July 2.

- Youth talent contest on the concert stage at 5:30 p.m. July 3.

- Little Miss & Mr. Sundown Salute pageant on the concert stage at 5:30 p.m. July 1.

- Free movie, "Independence Day," shown at Heritage Park at 9 p.m. July 1.

- Street dance 9 p.m. July 2 to 1 a.m. July 3, and

- Car show all day July 4.

The celebration includes the annual July 4 parade down Sixth Street beginning at 10 a.m.

A veteran's ceremony is planned for noon at the Vietnam veterans monument in Heritage Park after the parade. Military units from Fort Riley will participate in the parade and veterans ceremony.

Two fireworks displays are planned this year. One begins at

10 p.m. July 3 and the other at 10 p.m. July 4. The fireworks will be visible from Heritage Park.



Post/Heronemus
Spec. Eric Poe of the 1st Bn., 5th FA, Colonial Color Guard posts the U.S. flag at the beginning of the 2004 veteran's ceremony.

Australia vacations offered

Off-duty travel opens trips to 'Down Under'

By Tim Higgs

AFPS

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - Military travelers can purchase vacations to Australia for about the same cost as a getaway to Europe simply by visiting a military-sponsored Web site.

Authorized Morale, Welfare and Recreation patrons can go to the Off-Duty Travel Web site and click on "Joint Services Travel Specials" to begin a step-by-step process for building itineraries to a vacation Down Under. After preparing the itinerary, they can visit a supporting Information, Ticket and Reservation office or Information, Tickets and Tours office to finalize the booking, confirm arrangements and pay for the vacation.

"We're estimating these packages will be 10 to 30 percent less expensive than anything else they're going to be able to find," said Dan Yount, chief of Army Leisure Travel Services at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

MWR patrons can purchase eight-day trips from Los Angeles to Sydney, including lodging at three- or four-star hotels with some tours, starting as low as \$1,300. It can be even more affordable for Soldiers on rest-

and-recuperation leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"If someone is on R&R leave out of either Iraq or Afghanistan, the government will fly them any place that is shown as their destination on their leave orders," Yount explained. "So when they're planning their R&R leave and end Sydney, Australia, as the leave destination, the transportation office will arrange transportation to Sydney."

The Australian packages are a combined Army, Navy and Marine Corps ITR/ITT program available to active duty people, members of the Reserve components, retired military, family members and Defense Department civilians.

"Any authorized MWR patron (who) can provide proof of DoD affiliation is eligible," Yount said.

Military personnel assigned to OIF or OEF and approved to take authorized R&R leave can click on the "R&R Troop Travel" link for more information. MWR patrons can also click on the "Great Travel Deals" link. The deals include numerous vacation packages to all eight of Australia's states.

Yount said prices fluctuate based on the season, but noted that there is no bad time to visit Australia. "Australian seasons are

the opposite of ours, with winter occurring in June, July and August and summer starting in January," Yount said. "Weather patterns are much milder than a winter in the northeastern United States or the Midwest."

New York, Los Angeles and Honolulu are the embarkation points. Travelers can make arrangements from their nearest airport as part of the travel package using a Qantas code-share partner, or they may make their own travel arrangements to those destinations.

If travelers do not have access to a local ITT or ITR office, they can make arrangements via e-mail or telephone. A deposit that covers the full price of the airline ticket and a percentage of the land packages will be required upon booking. Travelers will have until 45 days before departure to finish paying for the package.

"Somebody who wants to book a vacation is going to be able to take their time paying, and it probably won't be painful at any one time," Yount said. "If somebody wants to pay all at once and leave in a week or two, that's their privilege, too. If they make (the reservation) within 45 days, they have to pay immediately."

Tim Higgs is assigned to the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

Society sponsors Gala

By Gaylynn Childs

Museum director

The Geary County Historical Society's Independence Holiday Gala shines the spotlight on a patriotic concert performed by the Little Apple Barbershop Chorus at the Junction City Municipal Auditorium.

The Gala's theme this year, "Of Thine I Sing," showcases the chorus's musical talent while paying tribute to this great Land of Freedom.

The Gala gets under way at 6:30 p.m. June 30 with a patriotic concert by the Junction City Community Band. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the Barbershop Chorus will take the stage at 8 p.m. Door prize drawings will precede the show.

Tickets for Gala cost \$12.50 per person or \$100 for a table for eight.

Tickets can be purchased at the Geary County Historical Museum at Sixth and Adams Streets in Junction City or reserved by calling the museum at 238-1666 or Willadean Kamm at 238-2918.

